

REMARKS

Claim 2 was objected to. Claims 3 to 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Laberge (U.S. Patent No 6,181,362).

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection and Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 2 has been amended as suggested and applicants thank the Examiner for noticing this typographical error.

Claim 3 has been amended to clarify that the spacing l (i.e. a lowercase L) is the spacing of neighboring **imaging spots**, which is also the spacing of the laser beams on the form. The neighboring **printing dots**, however, may be the placed or to be placed dots produced on the printing form. These are well described in [0018] for example. A printing dot thus may be a neighbor to another printing dot at a distance much shorter than the spacing of the laser beams. This is described for example very clearly in Fig. 2 and in [0039]-[0044]. Support for the amendment to claim 3 is found in [0022].

Withdrawal of the objection and the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Laberge (U.S. Patent No 6,181,362).

Laberge shows a single row of diodes in a line array on a single diode laser bar. The diodes are divided into two groups for fault tolerance. When the diodes in the first of the two groups are used for imaging in an ordinary situation, a diode of the second group may be used for imaging when the corresponding diode in the first group is out of order.

Claims 1 and 6 of the present invention include a first imaging module producing

first printing dots in the transition region, and a second imaging module producing second printing dots in the transition region.

The two separate modules of the present invention are shown for example in Fig. 4 as 40, 418, and are imaging modules. Module 10 in Fig. 1 is also described. A module is an interchangeable subassembly of a system (see for example http://www.atis.org/tg2k/_module.html).

The single laser array of Laberge cannot constitute two modules, since the lasers in the two groups are on a single bar and so form only a single module. Moreover, since the first group of lasers are interspersed with the second group of lasers, it would not have been obvious to make two modules out of the single laser array of Laberge.

In addition, there is no transition region shown in Laberge.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1 and 6 and their dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Supplemental IDS

A supplemental IDS has been filed showing another Laberge reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,252,622, which is not necessarily prior art to the present invention. This application also does not show two separate imaging modules, as a common imaging optics 5 is used, and does not show a transition region. A check of \$180.00 is submitted herewith.

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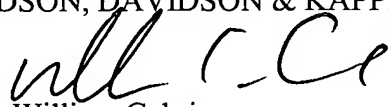
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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